The title of Distinguished Professor recognizes the exceptional academic contributions of full-time faculty members who hold the rank of professor. Distinguished Professors are recognized leaders in their fields of research or creative activity; demonstrate significant leadership in raising the University's standards in teaching, research or creative activity, and service; and exhibit excellent teaching skills.

Penn State’s Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs named 13 Distinguished Professors for 2021 who are included in this list, which is organized by College.

To learn more about Penn State’s Distinguished Professorships, see University Policy AC10 or visit the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs website.

Abington College

Linda Patterson Miller, Distinguished Professor of English
Elizabeth Montemurro, Distinguished Professor of Sociology

Altoona College

Brian C. Black, Distinguished Professor of History and Environmental Studies, Division of Arts and Humanities
Sandra H. Petrulionis, Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies, Division of Arts and Humanities
Rebecca Strzelec, Distinguished Professor of Visual Arts, Division of Arts and Humanities

Berks College

Robert C. Forrey, Distinguished Professor of Physics, Division of Science
Abdullah Konak, Distinguished Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, Division of Engineering, Business, and Computing

Capital College

Shaun L. Gabbidon, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice, School of Public Affairs
Erdener Kaynak, Distinguished Professor of Marketing, School of Business Administration
Elizabeth Tisdell, Distinguished Professor of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education

College of Agricultural Sciences

Thomas C. Baker, Distinguished Professor of Entomology and Chemical Ecology, Department of Entomology
Ottar N. Bjørnstad, Distinguished Professor of Entomology and Biology, Department of Entomology
Margherita T. Cantorna, Distinguished Professor of Molecular Immunology, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
College of Agricultural Sciences (continued)
Alexander N. Hristov, Distinguished Professor of Dairy Nutrition, Department of Animal Science
Leif I. Jensen, Distinguished Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education
Jason Kaye, Distinguished Professor of Biogeochemistry, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
Sridhar Komarneni, Distinguished Professor of Clay Mineralogy, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
Jonathan P. Lynch, Distinguished Professor of Plant Nutrition, Department of Plant Science
Jeffrey M. Peters, Distinguished Professor of Molecular Toxicology and Carcinogenesis, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Jay R. Stauffer, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Ichthyology, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

College of Arts and Architecture
Lisa O. Bontrager, Distinguished Professor of Music, School of Music
Maureen A. Carr, Distinguished Professor of Music, School of Music
Kim D. Cook, Distinguished Professor of Music, School of Music
Christopher Staley, Distinguished Professor of Art, School of Visual Arts
Kenneth R. Tamminga, Distinguished Professor of Landscape Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture

College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Susan L. Brantley, Distinguished Professor of Geosciences, Department of Geosciences
William H. Brune III, Distinguished Professor of Meteorology, Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Michael E. Mann, Distinguished Professor of Meteorology, Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Paul Markowski, Distinguished Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science, Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Kwadwo A. Osseo-Asare, Distinguished Professor of Metallurgy and Energy and Geo-Environmental Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Clive Randall, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Erica Smithwick, Distinguished Professor of Geography, Department of Geography

College of Education
M. Kathleen Heid, Distinguished Professor of Education (Mathematics Education), Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Gregory J. Kelly, Distinguished Professor of Education (Science), Department of Curriculum and Instruction
P. Karen Murphy, Distinguished Professor of Education (Educational Psychology), Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education
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College of Engineering
Charles E. Bakis, Distinguished Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics
Guohong Cao, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Chita R. Das, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Enrique Del Castillo, Distinguished Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
Cheng Dong, Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering
William E. Higgins, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mahmut Kandemir, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Seong Kim, Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering
Patrick M. Lenahan, Distinguished Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics
Asok Ray, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Anand Sivasubramaniam, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Karen A. Thole, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Adri van Duin, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Darrell Velegol, Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering
Jose Ventura, Distinguished Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
Qiming Zhang, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering

College of Health and Human Development
Mark L. Latash, Distinguished Professor of Kinesiology, Department of Kinesiology
Susan M. McHale, Distinguished Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
*Peter C. M. Molenaar, Distinguished Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Dennis P. Scanlon, Distinguished Professor of Health Policy and Administration, Department of Health Policy and Administration
Joshua M. Smyth, Distinguished Professor of Biobehavioral Health and Medicine, Department of Biobehavioral Health

College of Information Sciences and Technology
John M. Carroll, Distinguished Professor of Information Sciences and Technology

College of the Liberal Arts
D. Scott Bennett Jr., Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science
Christopher D. Castiglia, Distinguished Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Department of English
College of the Liberal Arts (continued)

Kalyan Chatterjee, Distinguished Professor of Economics and Management Science, Department of Economics

James P. Dillard, Distinguished Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences

Jonathan Eaton, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Diane Felmlee, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Criminology

Roger Finke, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies, Department of Sociology and Criminology

John Gastil, Distinguished Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences

Cheryl J. Glenn, Distinguished Professor of English and Women’s Studies, Department of English

Melissa A. Hardy, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography, Department of Sociology and Criminology

Peter Hatemi, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science

Eric R. Hayot, Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and Asian Studies, Department of Comparative Literature

John Iceland, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography, Department of Sociology and Criminology

Vijay Krishna, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Robert C. Marshall, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

George R. Milner, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology

Jenae M. Neiderhiser, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies, Department of Psychology

Christopher Reed, Distinguished Professor of English, Visual Culture, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Department of English

Joan T. Richtsmeier, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology

Neil Wallace, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

College of Medicine

James Broach, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Keith C. Cheng, Distinguished Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology

Vernon M. Chinchilli, Distinguished Professor of Public Health Sciences, Department of Public Health Sciences

James R. Connor, Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery

Karam El-Bayoumy, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Paul Haider, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Humanities and Public Health Sciences, Department of Medicine

Robert E. Harbaugh, Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery

Xuemei Huang, Distinguished Professor of Neurology, Pharmacology, Radiology and Kinesiology, Department of Neurology

Charles H. Lang, Distinguished Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology, and Surgery, Department of Cellular and Molecular Physiology

Robert Levenson, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Pharmacology
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College of Medicine (continued)
Craig M. Meyers, Distinguished Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Timothy J. Mosher, Distinguished Professor of Radiology, Department of Radiology
Kathryn Schmitz, Distinguished Professor of Public Health Sciences, Department of Public Health Sciences
Rongling Wu, Distinguished Professor of Public Health Sciences, Department of Public Health Sciences
Ian S. Zagon, Distinguished Professor of Neural and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Neural and Behavioral Sciences

Dickinson Law
William B. Barker, Distinguished Professor of Law

Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications
Ford Risley, Distinguished Professor of Journalism

Eberly College of Science
Réka Albert, Distinguished Professor of Physics and Biology, Department of Physics
G. Jogesh Babu, Distinguished Professor of Statistics, Astronomy and Astrophysics, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics
Philip C. Bevilacqua, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Dmitri Burago, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics
Vincent H. Crespi, Distinguished Professor of Physics, Materials Science and Engineering and Chemistry, Department of Physics
Teh-hui Kao, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Christine Keating, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry
Wen-Ching Li, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics
Mark Maroncelli, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry
Yakov B. Pesin, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics
Donald P. Schneider, Distinguished Professor of Astronomy, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics
Mark Strikman, Distinguished Professor of Physics, Department of Physics
David S. Weiss, Distinguished Professor of Physics, Department of Physics
Ping Xu, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
Michael Campbell, Distinguished Professor of Biology, School of Science
Ashutosh Deshmukh, Distinguished Professor of Accounting and Management Information Systems, Black School of Business
George Looney, Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Penn State Great Valley

John J. Sosik, Distinguished Professor of Management and Organization, School of Graduate Professional Studies

Smeal College of Business

Russell R. Barton, Distinguished Professor of Supply Chain and Information Systems, Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems
Gary L. Lilien, Distinguished Research Professor of Management Science, Institute for the Study of Business Markets
Arvind Rangaswamy, Distinguished Professor of Marketing, Department of Marketing
Linda K. Treviño, Distinguished Professor of Organizational Behavior and Ethics, Department of Management and Organization

University College

Charles Cantalupo, Distinguished Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and African Studies, Penn State Schuylkill
Stephen J. Cimbala, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Penn State Brandywine
Anatoli F. Ivanov, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Frantisek Marko, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Penn State Hazleton
Margaret L. Signorella, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State Brandywine

University Libraries and Scholarly Communications

Paige G. Andrew, Distinguished Maps Cataloging Librarian
Linda Musser, Distinguished Librarian and Head of the Earth and Mineral Sciences Library

https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/distinguished-professors/

* 2/27/02 - Provost approved additional Distinguished Professor (transferred from the Smeal College of Business)
** 9/26/11 - Provost approved additional Distinguished Professor (transferred from the College of Health and Human Development)
***9/29/2020 – Provost approved additional Distinguished Professor (does not count toward allotment total)